

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the claims that were published in the PCT Application and identified in the International Preliminary Examination Report:

1. (currently amended) A method (~~400~~) for encoding a macroblock having a plurality of partitions, the method comprising:
inter-coding (~~426~~) at least one of said plurality of partitions; and
intra-coding (~~428~~) at least a second of said plurality of partitions wherein said intra-coding comprises providing a reference picture index that is associated with a weighting factor of zero.
2. (original) A method as defined in Claim 1 wherein said macroblock comprises video data in compliance with the Joint Video Team ("JVT") standard.
3. (original) A method as defined in Claim 1 wherein said macroblock comprises a non-intra macroblock type.
4. (original) A method as defined in Claim 1 wherein said intra-coding comprises non-predictive intra-coding performed within a weighted prediction encoding mode by using a weighting factor of zero with a weighted prediction tool from at least one of the Main and Extended profiles of the JVT standard.
5. (original) A method as defined in Claim 4, further comprising coding a zero differential motion vector for a partition that is non-predictively intra-coded.
6. (original) A method as defined in Claim 1 wherein the inter-coded at least one of said plurality of partitions has a reference picture index associated with a non-zero valued weighting factor.
7. (original) A method as defined in Claim 6, further comprising deciding between inter-coding and non-predictive intra-coding of a partition in response to a measure of cost for each coding method.

8. (original) A method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:
associating a plurality of reference picture indices with a particular reference picture store using reference picture reordering commands; and
assigning a zero weight to one of the plurality of reference picture indices and non-zero weights to the other reference picture indices.
9. (currently amended) A method ~~(400)~~ for encoding a macroblock having at least one partition, the method comprising non-predictively intra-coding ~~(428)~~ the at least one partition by providing a reference picture index that is associated with a weighting factor of zero.
10. (original) A method as defined in Claim 9 wherein said non-predictive intra-coding is performed within a weighted prediction encoding mode by using a weighting factor of zero with a weighted prediction tool from at least one of the Main and Extended profiles of the JVT standard.
11. (currently amended) A video encoder ~~(200, 300)~~ for mixed inter/intra encoding of a macroblock having a plurality of partitions, the encoder comprising:
a reference picture weighting applicator ~~(292, 392)~~; and
a reference picture weighting factor unit ~~(272, 372)~~ in signal communication with the reference picture weighting applicator for assigning weighting factors corresponding to each of the mixed inter and intra coded partitions, respectively.
12. (currently amended) A video encoder as defined in Claim 11, further comprising a motion compensation unit ~~(290, 390)~~ in signal communication with the reference picture weighting applicator for providing at least one each of a motion compensated inter and intra coded partition, respectively.
13. (currently amended) A video encoder as defined in Claim 12, further comprising a reference picture store ~~(270, 370)~~ in signal communication with each of the reference picture weighting factor unit and the motion compensation unit for storing at least one each of a motion compensated inter and intra coded partition, respectively.

14. (original) A video encoder as defined in Claim 12 wherein the reference picture weighting applicator applies a weighting factor selected by the reference picture weighting factor unit to at least one of the motion compensated inter and intra coded partitions, respectively.

15. (original) A video encoder as defined in Claim 14 usable with bi-predictive picture predictors, the encoder further comprising prediction means for forming first and second predictors from the at least one weighted and motion compensated inter/intra coded partition.

16. (original) A video encoder as defined in Claim 11, further comprising: inter-coding means for inter-coding at least one partition of a macroblock; and intra-coding means for intra-coding at least a second partition of the macroblock.

17. (original) A video encoder as defined in Claim 16 wherein said macroblock comprises video data in compliance with the Joint Video Team ("JVT") standard.

18. (original) A video encoder as defined in Claim 16 wherein said macroblock comprises a non-intra macroblock type.

19. (original) A video encoder as defined in Claim 16 wherein said intra-coding means comprises indexing means for providing a reference picture index that is associated with a weighting factor of zero.

20. (original) A video encoder as defined in Claim 16, further comprising non-predictive intra-coding means for coding a zero differential motion vector for a partition that is non-predictively intra-coded.

21. (original) A video encoder as defined in Claim 16 wherein the inter-coded at least one of said plurality of partitions has a reference picture index associated with a non-zero valued weighting factor.

22. (original) A video encoder as defined in Claim 21, further comprising decision means for deciding between inter-coding and non-predictive intra-coding of a partition in response to a measure of cost for each coding method.

23. (original) A video encoder as defined in Claim 16, further comprising:
reference picture reordering means for associating a plurality of reference picture indices with a particular reference picture store using reference picture reordering commands; and

weighting means for assigning a zero weight to one of the plurality of reference picture indices and non-zero weights to at least one other reference picture index.

24. (currently amended) A video encoder ~~(200, 300)~~ for non-predictive intra encoding of a macroblock having at least one partition, the encoder comprising:
a reference picture weighting applicator ~~(292, 392)~~; and
a reference picture weighting factor unit ~~(272, 372)~~ in signal communication with the reference picture weighting applicator for assigning weighting factors corresponding to the at least one non-predictive intra coded partition.

25. (original) A video encoder as defined in Claim 24, further comprising non-predictive intra-coding means for intra-coding the at least one partition by providing a reference picture index that is associated with a weighting factor of zero.

26. (original) A method as defined in Claim 25 wherein said non-predictive intra-coding is performed within a weighted prediction encoding mode by using a weighting factor of zero with a weighted prediction tool from at least one of the Main and Extended profiles of the JVT standard.

27. (currently amended) An apparatus for encoding a macroblock having a plurality of partitions comprising:

means for inter-coding ~~(426)~~ at least one of said plurality of partitions; and
means for intra-coding ~~(428)~~ at least a second of said plurality of partitions,
wherein said means for intra-coding utilizes a reference picture index that is associated with a weighting factor of zero.